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PRODUCTION OF PHOSPHATES, VEGETABLE OIL, AND SOAP IN EGYPT

PRODUCTION OF PHOSPHATES IN EGYPT -- Cairo, Journal du Commerce et de la Marine, 19 Dec 52

Production of phosphates in Egypt increased again last year when it reached 407,409 tons, as compared with 397,209 in 1950, although it is still below the production of 1935 when it reached 547,538 tons.

Exports of Egyptian phosphates have now reached the prewar markets such as Japan, Ceylon, Indonesia, and Australia; they have also reached South Africa, Italy, Yugoslavia, New Zealand, and India.

Italy comes second after Japan on the Egyptian list of exports of phosphates.

PROBLEMS OF THE VEGETABLE OIL AND SOAP INDUSTRY OF EGYPT -- Cairo, Journal du Commerce et de la Marine, 30 Dec 52

Recent meetings of the shareholders of the Egyptian Salt and Soda Company and the Kafr az-Zayyat Cotton Company have underlined the problems of the vegetable oil and soap industry of Egypt.

As pointed out by Husayn Fahmi, president and deputy administrator of the Egyptian Salt and Soda Company, the Egyptian government now has stocks of local oil sufficient to last until May 1954. According to certain estimates, this year's crop will produce 125,000 tons of oil, which is quite sufficient for the needs of the country. Of this total, 25,000 tons will go to the soap industry, which in the past imported 36,000 tons of oil.

Husayn Sabri, president of the Kafr az-Zayyat Cotton Company, pointed out that the company's stock on hand has been increasing steadily, because of government rulings on the import of oil from abroad and because of restrictions on exports. These restrictions have had repercussions on the treasury. Mr Sabri expressed the hope that the authorities now in power, who constantly receive calls for help, will in the near future abolish these restrictions.

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Unfortunately, the policy adopted by the former regime had repercussions on the soap industry, which had to stock foreign oils, but at high prices; later on, the prices went down and the soap industry suffered serious losses.

This is one of the causes of the acute crisis which now affects the soap industry, besides the consequences of the abolition of the system of cotton-oil quotas which the Supply Ministry used to grant to the soap manufacturers and which consisted of one ton of cotton oil for each 4 tons of imported oil, as authorized by the ministry.

These imports, which reached 25,000 tons during the year, have cost 3 million pounds. This amount could have been saved by replacing the solid oils which are lacking with hydrogenated oils produced locally and which can be used to manufacture many kinds of soap (toilet soap, shaving soap, toothpaste).

The oil industry has to work at full capacity to supply the country with oil. By hydrogenating cotton oil, hard oil is obtained. This is used in the production of vegetable butter.

Considering the present abundance of oil in Egypt, it will no longer be necessary to import hydrogenated fat, which was exempt from customs duties, because this substance can be replaced by hydrogenated oils produced locally which are suitable for vegetable butter.

There is also the problem of the cotton-seed cakes, the major part of which cannot be sold for lack of local demand. Since the factories use fuel oil, these cakes are very seldom used as fuel and then only in a very small quantity. Also, since the clover season is rather long in Egypt, the consumption of cotton-seed cakes by cattle is rather insignificant, and it is feared that this year, on account of the agricultural reform law, the big farmers will not go into cattle breeding on as large a scale as in the past.

A cotton crop of 10,500,000 kantars will produce 7,500,000 irdabs [one irdab is 1.98 hectoliters] of cotton seed.

If, this year, the consumption in Egypt of cotton-seed cakes is equal to that of last year, there will be a surplus which should be exported, especially to the cold-climate countries where these cakes are fed to the cattle.

Considering that large stocks of cotton-seed cakes are accumulating in oil industry warehouses, it is important that the government take necessary measures to facilitate the export of these cakes, which would bring in foreign currency so badly needed, better the trade balance, and also better the economy of the country by helping the important oil and soap industry.

SOAP INDUSTRY IN EGYPT -- Cairo, Journal du Commerce et de la Marine, 8 Jan 53

According to statistics compiled by the Chamber of Soap Industry of Egypt in 1951, the 1951 production of Egyptian soap was as follows:

<u>No of Factories</u>	<u>Production Range</u> (tons)	<u>Total Production</u>
5	2,000	38,209,142
3	1,500-2,000	5,343,373
5	1,000-1,500	6,036,860

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<u>No of Factories</u>	<u>Production Range</u> (tons)	<u>Total Production</u>
4	500-1,000	2,705,548
5	300-500	1,666,925
6	200-300	1,530,868
4	100-200	632,858
264	Less than 100	12,987,596
Total 296		69,113,170

This total was broken down as follows, according to type:

<u>Kilograms of Soap</u>	<u>Type</u>
1,377,715	Nabulsi Soap
24,110,322	No 1 Marseille
13,999,670	No 1 Baladi
8,915,028	No 2 "
18,824,367	No 3 "
1,772,793	Toilet soap
110,275	Others

Consumption of soap reached 73,778,230 kilograms. The difference between this figure and the production total given above is 4,665,060 kilograms. This amount had to be imported; 2,790,000 kilograms of it came from Australia.

Imports were 10,887,343 kilograms in 1930, 947,614, in 1948, 2,476,528 in 1949, 1,715,271 in 1950, and 7,445,066 in 1951.

The larger increase noted for 1951 over 1950 stems from the lack of available cotton seed and the cancellation of customs duty on imports of popular soap.

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